

CHAPTER XXV

"I Count Upon AMBASSADOR OSHIMA" (Speech delivered by
YOSUKE MATSUOKA at the farewell party held on 15 January 1941)

I am most delighted to speak a part of my feeling at this farewell party which is given here today in honor of the Ambassador to Germany OSHIMA. At the beginning of the new year of 2601 of the Imperial Calendar, perhaps, you all will keenly feel that the international situation is growing most serious. In Europe, the war of Germany and Italy against Britain is being fought more and more violently, and in Asia our Empire has already been engaged for three and a half years in a holy war for the purpose of establishing a New Order in East Asia. And according to the results of this European War and also to the success or failure of establishing the New Order in East Asia by our Empire the history of the world will fundamentally be altered.

p.113 The efforts exerted by our country for establishing the New Order in East Asia which began with the Manchurian Incident, and the efforts exerted by Germany and Italy to break down the Versailles system both have a fundamental common cause which in turn will contribute to the establishment of the New Order of the world. The unity between Japan and Germany effected by the Tri-Partite Pact was not at all by chance, but it can be said to be the result of a strong spiritual combination based on a common idea surpassing any pledge made between countries which have simply a common interest.

p.114 It is our profound pleasure that His Excellency Hiroshi OSHIMA departs as Ambassador again to one of the member countries of the Alliance, Germany, which is now in an inseparable relation with us and, at the same time, is making an effort to establish the future by overcoming present difficulties, while the Alliance itself is the leading principle of our diplomacy. His Excellency not only assumed previously the posts of military attache and also of Ambassador to Germany, but has studied about Germany for scores of years, and must be well-informed of the state of affairs in Germany. In fact, he has built up such an absolute personal credit among the leaders of the German government that he can talk with them without reserve. No wonder that the German authorities have already expressed fervent welcome, as soon as his appointment was announced. With German-Japanese relations, destined to become closer, this very suitable appointment will help to promote future cooperation. The practical use of the Japanese-German relations which is built upon the foundation stone of the Tri-Partite Pact will largely depend upon the future and the field, wherein we will depend upon His Excellency OSHIMA's ability, is extensive. When I come to think of the future of the two countries, which are endeavoring to develop their fate in East Asia and Europe under the present international situation, I cannot but think of the importance of responsibility of the Ambassador

who is to be sent to the Allied power. When I come to think of the future relations between Germany and Japan, I believe that our national reliance upon Ambassador OSHIMA will be quite tremendous.

Lastly, I wish to congratulate His Excellency OSHIMA on his departure, and will look forward to his future activities.